



Utah State Office of Education / Utah State Office of Rehabilitation  
Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Utah Interpreter Program

# Allowable Practices and Situations For Sign Language Interpreters

(Effective January 2001)

## **NOVICE LEVEL (Entry Level)**

In addition to the following allowable practices, a Novice Level interpreter shall provide services in situations where ASL is the main mode of communication, or in situations where an English-based sign system is the main mode of communication. A Novice Level interpreter may not practice in situations that call for Intermediate or Master Level certification. A Novice Level may accept and provide services in interpreting situations that have the following characteristics:

**Control of Communication:** The situation allows the interpreter maximum control of time, is a one-on-one situation, uses consultative or informal register, and is consecutive or has the potential to become consecutive at the request of the interpreter.

**Complexity of Subject Matter:** The situation utilizes common language and covers day-to-day subject matter. Little or no technical or specialized language is required for communication.

**Sensitivity of Situation:** The situation has a low level of sensitivity and does not have the potential of immediately or seriously impacting the individual's well-being. It is not a crisis or life-threatening situation.

**A Novice Level interpreting situation may include, but is not limited to: routine appointments, most K-12 situations, routine staff meetings, and routine religious services.**

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## **INTERMEDIATE LEVEL**

The Intermediate Level interpreter may practice in all situations identified under the Novice Level. An Intermediate Level interpreter may not practice in situations that call for Master Level certification. Situations with the following characteristics are allowable practices for an Intermediate Level interpreter:

**Control of Communication:** The situation allows the interpreter a moderate degree of time control: for example, request by the interpreter for clarification or to slow communication are interruptive but permissible if not frequent. The situation may require a combination of consecutive and simultaneous interpreting and use of consultative or formal register.

**Complexity of Subject Matter:** The situation requires the use of language that is

more complex than common language but does not require highly complex language. The subject matter to be communicated is more complex or technical than day-to-day subject matter, but not highly complex to the interpreter.

**Sensitivity of Situation:** The situation has the potential of producing consequences for the consumer that impact his/her life, but not in a life-threatening manner.

**A Intermediate Level interpreting situation may include, but is not limited to: all Novice Level situations, adult education classes, undergraduate college classes, job training, and routine medical appointments.**

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## **MASTER LEVEL**

The Master Level interpreter may practice in all situations the interpreter feels qualified to handle. The practice of interpreting is restricted to a Master Level interpreter when the following characteristics are present:

**Control of Communication:** The situation allows the interpreter little or no control of time by being simultaneous, such as group and platform situations. Frozen, formal, or intimate register may be used.

**Complexity of Subject Matter:** The information being communicated is considered to be highly complex, such as technical legal and medical information, and may often require specialized language.

**Sensitivity of Subject Matter:** The situation for which the interpreter services are needed is considered highly sensitive, such as an emergency setting or a situation that could seriously impact the individual's life or well-being.

**A Master Level interpreting situation may include, but is not limited to: all Novice Level and Intermediate Level situations; formal proceedings, lecture-intensive graduate classes with or without specialized vocabulary, diagnostic evaluations, life-threatening or complex medical situations, formal conference and platform situations, formal legal situations and courtroom proceedings, and highly interactive multi-participant groups.**

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